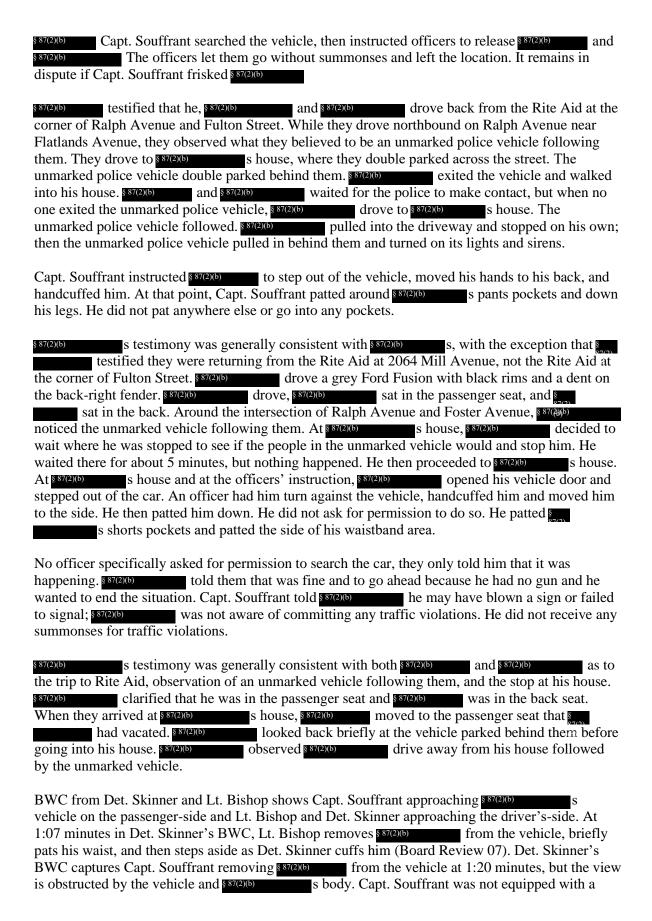
CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:	r	Геат:	CCRB Case #:	□]	Force		Discourt.	☐ U.S.
Emma Kaisla	5	Squad #15	202004254		Abuse		O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)]	Location of Incident:	•	Pr	ecinct:	18	Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Thursday, 06/11/2020 9:20 PM	\$	87(2)(b)			67	12	2/11/2021	5/4/2022
Date/Time CV Reported	(CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:]	Date/Time	e Rece	eived at CC	RB
Mon, 06/15/2020 12:27 PM	(CCRB	On-line website	1	Mon, 06/1	15/202	20 12:27 PM	И
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess					
Witness(es)		Home Addre	ess					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command					
1. CPT Frantz Souffrant	00000	939510	063 PCT					
Witness Officer(s)	Shield No	Tax No	Cmd Name					
1. DTS Delano Skinner	7365	947494	067 PCT					
2. LT Chancellor Bishop	00000	936210	067 PCT					
3. POM Delio Fernandez	16156	957578	067 PCT					
4. POM Ricardo Martinez	19264	950834	067 PCT					
5. POM Denis Gamez	07601	949000	067 PCT					
6. POM Jared Desalvo	01870	958494	HARBOR					
7. POM Dennis Wu	18327	961463	067 PCT					
8. SGT Robert Bellantonio	02484	948651	067 PCT					
9. POM Brendan Denny	17241	966539	067 PCT					
Officer(s)	Allegation	1			Inve	estiga	tor Recor	nmendation
A.CPT Frantz Souffrant	Abuse: Ca	ptain Frantz Souffrant	stopped § 87(2)(b)					
B.CPT Frantz Souffrant	Abuse: Ca	ptain Frantz Souffrant	stopped § 87(2)(b)					
C.CPT Frantz Souffrant	Abuse: Captain Frantz Souffrant frisked § 87(2)(b)							
D.CPT Frantz Souffrant	Abuse: Ca	Abuse: Captain Frantz Souffrant frisked § 87(2)(b)						
E.CPT Frantz Souffrant	Abuse: Ca which § 87(2)	Abuse: Captain Frantz Souffrant searched the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) was an occupant.						
#######################################	OPMN: Captain Frantz Souffrant failed to prepare a stop and frisk report as required.							

Case Summary

On June 15, 2020, § 87(2)(b) filed this complaint with the CCRB via the online complaint form. On June 29, 2020 § 87(2)(b) also filed a complaint with the CCRB via the online complaint form. On June 11, 2020, at approximately 9:00 p.m. \$87(2)(b) was driving \$87(2)(b) home from a Rite Aid in Brooklyn. While driving along Ralph Avenue, the three noticed an unmarked police vehicle following them. With this vehicle following him, dropped § 87(2)(b) at his house without incident, then drove to \$87(2)(b) s house in Brooklyn. When \$87(2)(b) parked his vehicle in \$87(2)(b) at § 87(2)(b) driveway, Capt. Frantz Souffrant of the 63 PCT activated his lights and pulled up behind s vehicle, blocking it in. Lt. Chancellor Bishop, Det. Delano Skinner, PO Delio Fernandez, PO Ricardo Martinez, PO Denis Gamez, PO Jared Desalvo, PO Dennis Wu, Sgt. Robert Bellantonio, and PO Brendan Denny of the 67 PCT also responded. Capt. Souffrant ordered and §87(2)(6) out of the vehicle and officers handcuffed them (Allegations A-B: Abuse of Authority –Stop, § 87(2)(g) . Lt. Bishop frisked § 87(2)(b) ■ (Allegations C: Abuse of Authority –Frisk, § 87(2)(g) . Captain Souffrant allegedly frisked § 87(2)(b) (Allegation D –frisk, § 87(2)(g)). Capt. Souffrant searched § 87(2)(b) (Allegation E – Vehicle search, § 87(2)(g) . Then officers released the two men. No arrests were made or summonses issued. § 87(2)(g), § 87(4-b) There is body-worn camera (BWC) footage of the incident from Det. Skinner, Lt. Bishop, PO Fernandez, PO Martinez, PO Gamez, PO Desalvo, PO Wu, Sgt. Bellantonio, and PO Denny (Board Review 07-15, transcribed in Board Review 16). \$87(2)(b) also provided a video recorded by his brother during the incident (Board Review 17, transcribed in Board Review 18), Captain Souffrant was not equipped with a BWC. The investigation generated a map showing relevant locations (Board Review 30) **Findings and Recommendations** Allegation (A) Abuse of Authority: Captain Frantz Souffrant stopped 887(2)(6) Allegation (B) Abuse of Authority: Captain Frantz Souffrant stopped SS7(2)(b) Allegation (C) Abuse of Authority: Captain Frantz Souffrant frisked 887(2)(b) Allegation (D) Abuse of Authority: Captain Frantz Souffrant frisked 887(2)(6) Allegation (E) Abuse of Authority: Captain Frantz Souffrant searched the vehicle in which was an occupant and \$87(2)(b) both made written complaints via the CCRB's online complaint form (Board Review 01, 04). § 87(2)(b) was interviewed on June 22 and § 87(2)(b) interviewed on July 2, 2020 (Board Review 02, 05). Str(2) gave a follow-up statement on July 16, 2020 (Board Review 03). \$87(2)(b) provided a telephone statement on July 17, 2021 (Board Review 06). It is undisputed that on June 11, 2020, at about 9:00 p.m. Capt. Souffrant, alone in an unmarked police vehicle, began following § 87(2)(b) s grey vehicle at some point along Ralph Avenue. parked at After § 87(2)(b) Capt. Souffrant pulled his vehicle in behind s blocking him in. He and additional officers from the 67 PCT told \$87(2)(b) to put their hands up and step out of the vehicle. Officers handcuffed both men and told them they were stopped in regards to a shooting in in the 63rd precinct. Lt. Bishop frisked



BWC and was the only officer who initially approached the passenger-side.

Event details from the 63 PCT on June 11, 2020 reveal a shooting occurred at 50 Whitman Drive and was first reported at 8:49p.m. (Board Review 43). Review of 911 recordings shows that none of the 911 callers provided any details about the shooting suspect(s) in their calls (Board Review 23-27, transcribed in Board Review 28).

Review of the recordings of radio transmissions from the 63 PCT that night contain the following information:

- At approximately 8:55p.m. (5:00 minutes into the received recording) officers put over "two males... no description, just two males... have a firearm."
- At approximately 8:57p.m. (7:18 minutes into the received recording) an officer states "possible vehicle silver car, fled westbound on Whitman, as of right now no plate."
- At approximately 8:58p.m. (8:10 minutes into the received recording) the 63 Sgt. reports that the suspect is "Hispanic, approached victim, asked time, took watch, fired, and fled eastbound on Whitman... in a silver vehicle, that's all we got."
- At approximately 8:58p.m. (8:55 minutes into the received recording) an officers states "two Hispanic males."
- At approximately 9:00 p.m. (10:00 minutes into the received recording) an officer states the description is a silver car with two Hispanic males.
- At approximately 9:01p.m. (11:15 minutes into the received recording) the 63 Sgt. reports "one Hispanic male wearing a t-shirt and blue jeans, other male Hispanic is heavyset."
- At approximately 9:05p.m. (15:15 minutes into the received recording) an officer who identifies himself as the 63 Executive Officer and determined by the investigation to be Capt. Souffrant states he is following a vehicle on "Convent Drive" and says something else that is inaudible. There is no Convent Drive in Brooklyn. He states he is in the 67 PCT, then gives his location as Avenue B and East 86th, then East 87th. Capt. Souffrant asks dispatch for units from 67 to respond to his location.
- At approximately 9:07p.m. (17:45 minutes into the received recording) the Capt. Souffrant states he does not need more support as he has 67 units responding.
- At approximately 9:18p.m. (28:33 minutes into the received recording) an officer confirms the Capt. Souffrant is at East 56th and Clarendon for a car stop.
- At approximately 9:19p.m. (29:00 minutes into the received recording) the Capt. Souffrant reports the car stop is negative. (Board Review 19)

The investigation was unable to obtain the recordings of the communications Capt. Souffrant had with officers in the 67 PCT because he had switched radio frequencies.

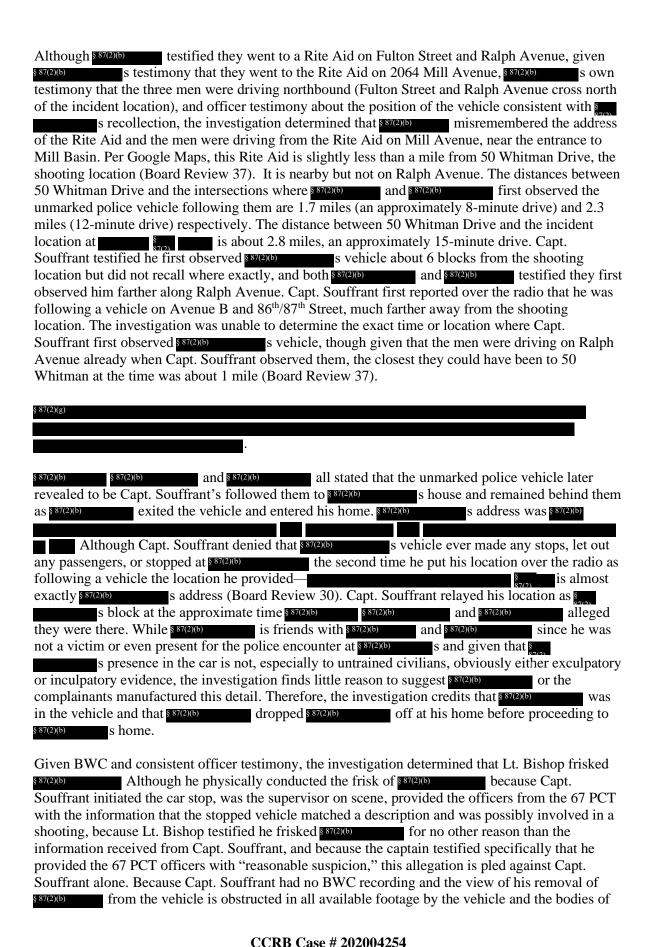
Capt. Souffrant testified that when responding to the shooting on Whitman Drive he turned onto Ralph Avenue heading southbound. While driving southbound, he heard over the radio that there were two suspects and they were looking for a possible silver vehicle fleeing Whitman Drive. He did not have any additional information or descriptions of the suspects themselves. He did not receive any information from any other source besides the radio. Ralph Avenue is two lanes in each direction. Capt. Souffrant was in the left lane going southbound and observed a grey vehicle with two occupants traveling at a high rate of speed in the left lane going northbound. He did not recall if the grey vehicle had tinted windows. He was only able observe that there were two occupants through the front window. Capt. Souffrant was not able to observe anyone else inside the vehicle. He did not remember exactly where along Ralph Avenue he observed this grey vehicle but estimated it was about six blocks away from the shooting location. Capt. Souffrant could not recall anything about the road or lighting conditions at the time. While there were probably other silver or grey vehicles on the road at the time, and speeding on its own is not necessarily noticeable, Capt. Souffrant also observed the vehicle blow through a red light and then continue to blow multiple red lights. The vehicle also had two occupants and it was grey; he therefore thought someone might

have mistaken it for silver. Because of the timing and location, that it was grey, had two occupants, was speeding, and blew a red light, he thought it might be involved in the shooting and decided to follow it. At that point there was no more specific description of the suspects; the only description he had was a silver vehicle fleeing the scene. There was no other reason to follow the vehicle. Though Capt. Souffrant initially stated the fact that there were two occupants was a factor in his decision to follow the vehicle, he later stated that he knew at some point it went over the radio that two occupants were involved but he was not sure if he knew that then.

Capt. Souffrant followed and did not observe it commit any other traffic violations besides driving through the red lights. Capt. Souffrant did not immediately pull over the vehicle after witnessing it drive through red lights because he was by himself. As he followed it, he put it over the radio but switched frequencies because he was entering the 67 PCT. He told them he was following a vehicle in relation to a male shot and needed back up. By the time the 67 PCT units arrived, the grey The grey vehicle made no vehicle coincidentally pulled into the driveway at § 87(2)(b) stops between when Capt. Souffrant first observed it and § 87(2)(b) He did not recall stopping at § 87(2)(b) or at the intersection of He never lost sight of the grey vehicle for any amount of time. He did not recall the vehicle stopping and letting out a passenger near the intersection of § 87(2)(b) After reviewing a map of showing and its distance from § 87(2)(b) Capt. Souffrant still did not recall making a stop there or anyone exiting the vehicle at that location.

As he approached, Captain Souffrant told the passenger, identified by the investigation as to get out of the car and complied. As soon as he opened the door, Capt. Souffrant grabbed him by the hands and walked him back towards the back of the vehicle. Capt. Souffrant did not handcuff but an officer did once he was at the back of the vehicle. Capt. Souffrant did not frisk or pat down capt. Souffrant had no physical interaction with him after taking him by the hands and bringing him to the back of the car. He did not know if anyone else frisked him. He was not aware if any officer frisked or searched the driver. While speaking to the 67 PCT officers he did not give any other directions besides instructing them to take the occupants into custody and telling other extra arriving units to resume patrol. He never specifically directed officers to frisk and search the occupants, but assumed they may have done so since prior to the stop he made sure the officers were aware it was in relation to a male shot, "providing [them] with reasonable suspicion."

Capt. Souffrant searched the vehicle. He was the only one who searched it. Capt. Souffrant checked the vehicle by looking at the driver's-side and passenger-side, primarily under the seats. Based on his knowledge and experience, people tend to hide firearms there. Capt. Souffrant did not look anywhere else. He found loose marijuana leaves on the floor and console. There was no other contraband. He did not take any action regarding this marijuana because he exercised his discretion.



and Lt. Bishop, the investigation could not determine whether Capt. Souffrant frisked \$87(2)(b) immediately on his exiting from the vehicle.

NY CLS CPL § 140.50(3) allows an officer to conduct a frisk after a stop if they reasonably suspect they are in physical danger (Board Review 35).

<u>People v. DeBour, 1976 40 N.Y. 2d 210</u> found that in order to stop a person, a police officer must have reasonable suspicion that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime (Board Review 33).

In <u>People v. Mack, 26 N.Y.2d 311</u> the New York Court of Appeals found that a frisk is permitted in the absence of a specific, articulated danger when an officer stops a suspect on a reasonable belief the suspect committed a violent crime (Board Review 36)

<u>People v. Ceruti, 133 A.D.3d 610</u> based on a radio transmission indicating the make and color of the vehicle involved in a robbery stopped in close geographical proximity (about 1 mile) and within less than 20 minutes from time of the robbery constituted reasonable suspicion (Board Review 32)

In <u>People v. Brooks 266 A.D.2d 864</u> the court found that officers who stopped defendants based on information that a robbery had been committed by three black males in a green automobile, even within 30-35 minutes of the robbery and within a mile of the incident location did not have sufficient reasonable suspicion (Board Review 34).

These cases consider 1) the degree of specificity of the description of vehicle and occupants and 2) the spatial and temporal nexus between the car and crime location when determining whether a vehicle description provided officers reasonable suspicion to conduct a stop. Further complicating the analysis is the fact that while Capt. Souffrant may have been justified in conducting a stop of svehicle *if* he did observe him commit a traffic violation, Capt. Souffrant did not stop svehicle *if* he did observe him commit a traffic violation, Capt. Souffrant did not stop svehicle *if* he stop occurring *after* stop had independently stopped his vehicle at his destination. Only at that point did Capt. Souffrant engage his lights and sirens, initiating the stop, making the allegation a stop of stop and stop and stop of stop and stop

Capt. Souffrant testified the factors which provided his reasonable suspicion for the stop were: see vehicle was grey, close to the shooting location (roughly six blocks), had two occupants, it blew multiple red lights, and was traveling above the posted speed limit of 25 mph on what he believed to be a likely escape corridor out of Mill Basin. While the description he had was for a silver vehicle, he thought someone may have mistaken the grey vehicle for silver. While a review of the recordings shows that at the time Capt. Souffrant reported he was following the vehicle, the description available was for a Hispanic male with a t-shirt and blue jeans and a heavyset Hispanic male in a silver vehicle, Capt. Souffrant testified he did not have pedigree descriptions for the subjects when he developed his suspicion and further that he could not see inside the vehicle beyond to determine there were two occupants when he chose to stop it. Capt. Souffrant did not testify he believed either seres.

The stop occurred within three miles and 20 minutes of the shooting location, and Capt. Souffrant initially observed the vehicle in even closer geographic and temporal proximity. While Capt. Souffrant's observations that the vehicle was driving in the opposite direction from the shooting location at a high rate of speed while committing traffic infractions to be not irrelevant, the captain had little to specifically connect his observation of a vehicle disobeying traffic laws on a major thoroughfare to the shooting.

§ 87(2)(g)
While a silver and grey vehicle might conceivably be mixed up, they might just as
easily be distinguished. The radioed description of a "silver vehicle" was extremely general; the captain had no make, model, nor size, and the color provided was one of the most common vehicle
colors, and liable, by the captain's own testimony, to be confused for another. Capt. Souffrant
conceded that there were probably numerous other silver and grey vehicles on the street at the time.
Further, as discussed above, the investigation determined that there were in fact three people in
s vehicle and not two. While the presence of a third person in the back seat would not
necessarily be apparent when Capt. Souffrant initially observed the vehicle on the road at night, that
exited the vehicle and entered his house and that \$87(2)(b) moved from the back
to the front seat while Capt. Souffrant was already following the vehicle makes his reasoning that
there were two occupants inside the vehicle less credible. §87(2)(g)
Here, Capt. Souffrant had even less \$87(2)(g)
only a loosely corresponding vehicle color, three vehicle
occupants instead of the described two, and no description of the subjects (or in any case not one
that Capt. Souffrant used, given he was not able to see inside the vehicle when he decided to make
the stop), and a geographic distance greater than a mile. §87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g), § 87(4-b)

§ 87(2)(g), § 87(4-b)				
Review 38-3Captain Sou CCRB comp2010072	irst complaint to which either 39). Iffrant has been a member of solaints with seven allegations, 219 involved substantiated allegations.	or \$87(2)(b) or \$87(2)(b) hervice for 16 years and has been of which three were substantiate egations of a stop, frisk, and velocities of the NYPD issued Command Di	ted: nicle search for which	
	declined to mediate his comp st 6, 2021, the New York City	Office of the Comptroller has r	no record of a Notice	
of Claim be	ing filed in regards this to this	complaint (Board Review 42).		
Squad:	15			
Investigator:	Emolhista	Inv. Emma Kaisla	12/13/21	
	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date	
Squad Leader: _	Sinon Wann	IM Simon Wang	01/21/22	
	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date	
Reviewer:				

Print Title & Name

Signature

Date